

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant: MICHEL COUTURE

Serial No.: --

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Title: AN APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SEPARATING/MIXING
PARTICLES

Examiner: --

Group Art Unit: --

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
U.S.A.

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.102(c), the Applicant requests advanced examination of the application. The Applicant states that the invention will materially enhance the quality of the environment.

More specifically, the present invention relates to a dry particle separation process and apparatus. The present invention describes a separation process and apparatus that do not require the use of water to separate finer particles from coarser particles as for conventional water washing systems on the market which produce waste sludge requiring disposal in landfill sites. Accordingly, the process of the present invention produces a finer particle output that is free of polluted water and the finer particle output can be used in other processes as a raw material eliminating the need for its disposal in landfill sites.

Moreover, the present invention replaces dry classifiers on the market. These systems produce a coarser particle stream and a large volume of air contaminated with finer particles which needs to be treated by conventional treatment systems in comparison with the present invention which describes a particle separation process and the collection of the finer particles in the same apparatus. It involves a low volume of air, with a high finer particle concentration, enabling the collection of finer particles by

- 2 -

Commissioner for Patents

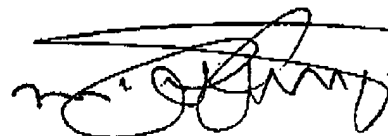
settling, within a confined space. The relative small size of the apparatus of the present invention enables same to be included in as a sub-process of various larger-scale processes, thereby reducing emissions of polluted air in such processes.

Accordingly, from the above-described details, the Applicant believes that the present invention is beneficial for the environment, and hence requests that the present application be made special under 37 C.F.R. 1.102(c).

Respectfully submitted,

MICHEL COUTURE

By:

February 5, 2004

(Date)

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